

Calendar for 4th to 11th October 2026

Sunday 4th October– Blessing of the Pets Sunday, and St Francis of

Assisi 800th Anniversary

8.00am Said Eucharist (BCP) – **St Peter and St Paul**
Readings: Genesis 1.24-31; Galatians 6.14-18; Luke 12.22-34.
9.30am Harvest Festival – **St Mary's Church, Ballinger**
10.00am Parish Eucharist - **St Peter and St Paul and live online**
6.00pm Evening Prayer – **St Peter and St Paul**

Wednesday 7th October

9.30am Holy Communion – **St Peter and St Paul**
10.30am Coffee 'n' Share – **St Peter and St Paul**

Sunday 11th October– Trinity 19

8.00am Said Eucharist (BCP) – **St Peter and St Paul**
Readings: Isaiah 25.1-9; Philippians 4.1-9; Matthew 22.1-14.
10.00am Parish Eucharist - **St Peter and St Paul and live online**
11.30am Holy Communion – **Little Hampden**
6.00pm Sung Compline – **St Peter and St Paul**

Future Dates for your Diary (at St Peter and St Paul unless stated)

Sunday 18th October – Harvest Festival.

Sunday 1st November, 9.30am at St Mary's Church, Ballinger – Remembrance Service.

Sunday 8th November, 11.00am– Remembrance Service at the War Memorial.

Sunday 8th November, 1.00pm at Little Hampden – Remembrance Service.

Sunday 8th November, 4.00pm – Remembering with Love Service.

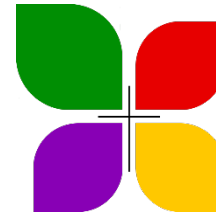
Saturday 14th November, 2.30pm – FGMPCTalk and Tea: VE / VJ Days – 80 Years On (see inside for further details).

Live-Streaming of our Services

Many of our 10am services are streamed live. If you have any questions or concerns see notice board and/or please contact the Vicar or Safeguarding Officer (details below).

STAFF AVAILABILITY:

Rev. Malcolm Chalmers 07584 680 160 vicar@missendenchurch.org.uk
Licensed Lay Minister: Patricia Neale 01494 863 348 tricianeale8@gmail.com
Parish Office: 01494 862 352 office@missendenchurch.org.uk
For any safeguarding concern: Alan Mustoe 07725 909 733
safeguarding@missendenchurch.org.uk



St Peter and St Paul, Great Missenden
St Mary's Church, Ballinger
Little Hampden

**Helping one another to Know, to
Serve and to Share God's love**

Sunday 4th October– Blessing of the Pets Sunday, and St Francis of Assisi 800th Anniversary

Please include in our prayers:

- for all pets, and all animals on farms and in the wild, that they may be cared for and protected;
- for peace throughout the world and for constructive and helpful debate in the United Nations Organisation;
- for all those who are ill, in body, mind or spirit, either at home or in hospital;
- for the process of appointing a Youth Worker and a volunteer lead fund raiser;
- for all our volunteers, giving thanks for all that they do in the service of our Lord in our parish.

'Do not be afraid, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'
Luke 12.32-34

Collect

O God, you ever delight to reveal yourself to the childlike and lowly of heart: grant that, following the example of blessed Francis, we may count the wisdom of this world as foolishness and know only Jesus Christ and him crucified, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Post Communion

Merciful God, who gave such grace to your servant Saint Francis that he served you with singleness of heart and loved you above all things: help us, whose communion with you has been renewed in this sacrament, to forsake all that holds us back from following Christ and to grow into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect words – © Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000)

The Vicar writes...

The year of 2026 marks the historic 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi, who passed away on 3 October 1226 at the age of 44. To commemorate this milestone, churches of various denominations will hold special services. For example, Pope Leo XIV proclaimed a special Franciscan Jubilee Year under the theme “*San Francesco Vive*” (Saint Francis Lives On). Renowned for his radical embrace of poverty and humility, St. Francis is globally celebrated as the patron saint of animals and ecology due to his profound spiritual connection to all living creatures, famously captured in his hagiographies and his masterwork, the *Canticle of the Sun*. He viewed animals as equal brothers and sisters under God’s creation, a theology that continues to be celebrated every 4 October through the traditional blessing of pets on his feast day, which also coincides with World Animal Day. Today, his legacy remains intensely vibrant and relevant; his teachings on environmental stewardship and care for the vulnerable served as the direct inspiration for Pope Francis’s landmark ecological encyclical, *Laudato si’*, cementing the 13th century friar as an enduring, modern symbol of global peace, fraternity and climate action.

News and Events

Harvest Parcels this year will be forwarded to Chiltern Foodbank and used for local families in need via our own food distribution box in the North porch. Tinned and packet items should be within BBE date please, and the Foodbank would be grateful to receive the following goods in particular: Tinned Meatballs; Tinned Corned Beef; Tinned Custard; Tinned Fruit; Honey; Tinned Carrots; Instant Mash; Savoury Biscuits; Shampoo; Cereals; Fruit Juice (long life); Tinned Pudding; Jam; Tinned Fish; Tinned Veg; Cooking Sauces; Milk (UHT long-life); Small Instant Coffee.

Harvest Festival will take place on Sunday 4th October at St Mary’s Church Ballinger, on Sunday 18th October at St Peter and St Paul and on Sunday 25th October at Little Hampden.

Coffee Mornings at the Oldham Hall will take place each Friday from 8am – 9.45am during term time. All are welcome.

Afternoon Tea in aid of Thames Valley Air Ambulance on Saturday 17th October, 2.30pm-4.30pm, at the Damien Hall, The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 23 High Street, Great Missenden, HP16 9AA. Tickets £10, which includes tea and cake, available from Samways in Great Missenden. Raffle and Gift Stalls. If you would like to book a table for four or more, make a donation or buy raffle tickets, please contact Jill York jillelizabethyork@yahoo.co.uk / 07846 534 301

Friends of Great Missenden Parish Church (Regd. Charity No.: 1067435)

VE / VJ Days – 80 Years On, an illustrated talk by Tony Birkett. The Second World War ended in 1945, bringing six years of conflict to a close. More than 80 years on, its events and consequences continue to shape Britain and the wider world. VE Day on 8th May 1945 marked the end of the war in Europe, while VJ Day on 15th August marked Japan’s announcement of its surrender. Tony will

explore the final eight months of the war from a geopolitical perspective, before bringing the story forward to the present day and looking at how the events of 1945 continue to shape our world more than 80 years later. Tea and biscuits, a raffle and sale of home-made preserves will follow the talk. Tickets are £10, available from Samways or on the door. For further information, please contact Vivienne Davis at friendsgmipc@outlook.com

Book Club – All Welcome. I am quite new to the Church and hoping to get to know people. I am starting a Book Club meeting monthly at Sue and Mike O’Farrell’s house. It’s not a House Group, just a fun way to get together and talk about meaningful books. To start us off, I have chosen the joyful and rewarding ‘The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe’ by C.S. Lewis. Is it a children’s book? We will find out! Rowan Williams says it has “subtle literary artistry and powerful spiritual insights...”

Monday 26th October, 2-4pm, ‘Sarmia’, Marriotts Avenue, South Heath, HP16 9QW. Tea and cake. The intention is to meet same time, same place, on the last Monday of each month. Just come along, no need to sign up, please do read the book in advance, if you can. Any questions, please contact me Deborah Elliott 07747 038930.

Misbourne Careers Day. Looking forward to the next academic year – we are starting to plan our Year 11 Careers Day. As part of our careers programme we run a number of drop down days with a variety of recruitment / work ready activities. We rely on members of the local community to provide a real world experience for the students and are very grateful for your support. Would you be available to conduct a mock interview with some of our Year 11 students on 13 November? Details about the event can be found in the attached briefing document. If you are available – **please sign up** on his link <https://forms.gle/hJS1HL1gmd2HYHrd9>

DENS Sleepout 2026: Just One Night Can Change Someone’s Future. Take on a challenge with a real purpose. Give up your home comforts for one night and experience sleeping outside while raising vital funds for local people facing homelessness and hardship. Takes place on Friday 20th November, 7.30pm, at The Dock, Station Road, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 8LZ. Tickets: Adults (18+): £10 / Child (8-17): £5. For further details and to book: www.dens.org.uk/event/sleepout

Please note, you can subscribe to the online version of the Newssheet by contacting the Church Office by email: office@missendenchurch.org.uk



The Chiltern Foodbank is currently looking for donations of...
Chocolate; Instant Mashed Potato; Long-life Milk; Sponge Puddings;
Sweets; Tinned Carrots; Tinned Fruit; Tinned Potatoes; Tinned
Sweetcorn; Washing Powder. **All items must be within BBE date, please.**